

A BALLOON RIDE.

A DESCRIPTION OF COL. McCLELLAN'S BALLOON RIDE FROM GETTYSBURG TO YORK IN 1862.

The following is from an issue of the York Gazette of 1862:

A daring feat was accomplished on Saturday last, by a citizen of our neighboring town of Gettysburg. Mr. John Wise, the American "Bromut, par excellence," had announced his intention to make his thirty-ninth balloon ascension on that day, from an enclosure in Gettysburg; and with his usual punctuality, was ready on the day and hour promised. His balloon was inflated; his ballast, grapples, iron, etc., duly secured; and he was about to step into the basket. At that moment, Mr. John McClellan, a young gentleman of Gettysburg, inquired of Mr. Wise whether it would not be possible for two persons to ascend with the power then in the balloon. On receiving a negative reply, Mr. McClellan, seemingly much disappointed, said he was determined to have a ride; and inquired the price at which Mr. Wise would permit him to make the voyage alone. "One hundred dollars," said Mr. Wise, who did not appear to consider the inquiry to be in earnest. "I will give you fifty dollars!" "Agreed—fork over!" The joke was "carried out," and the event of it was soon transferred to the pocket of the aeronaut; and his subsequent success is the car, vociferating his direction to "cut loose!" Mr. Wise thought that matters had now gone far enough, and requested his customer to get out as the time had arrived at which he had promised to be off. But he refused to do so, and insisted that he had regularly hired and paid for a passage "in this boat," and go he would. As Dr. Dady, who was present, said to the man in the moon, when the latter respectable personage told him to "have his head down," he told him the more he would "let."

Mr. Wise then let the balloon up a short distance by a rope, thinking probably that as there was considerable wind and the air-hose consequently turbulent, that his customer would have his courage cooled and "give in." But this was no go; and thinking he had as good a start as he ever would have, Mr. McClellan cut the rope—and "cut loose!" After he found that it was the determination of Mr. McClellan to go, Mr. Wise had but time to give him hastily and imperfect instructions in regard to the management of the balloon; and in a few minutes the daring aeronaut ascended to the height of about two miles. Here he struck a current of air which bore him directly towards York. He says that the earth receded from him very rapidly after he had thrown a bag or two of sand upon it; that Gettysburg passed off towards Hagerstown, and that he saw Carlisle, Hanover, Abolitiontown, Berlin, strutting about, and that soon after, just ahead of him, he saw Old York coming full-tilt up the three-pike towards him, apparently taking an afternoon's walk to Gettysburg. Having determined to stop at York, and fearing from the remarkable speed at which he usually attained, and sober town was traveling, that she would soon pass under his balloon and give him the gas, he pulled the string attached to the safety-valve, in order to let off a portion of his gas. This valve is so constructed that when the rope attached to it is pulled, the valve opens to the interior, and again closes by the force of the gas when the rope is let go.

Unfortunately, however, the inexperienced aeronaut pulled too violently at his string, and brought it down to the earth! When this occurred he was more than a mile high, and he immediately and with fearful rapidity descended to the earth. When he was about a mile from the earth, he saw a valved-door came off, the gas of course escaped rapidly; but the balloon caught sufficient air to form a parachute, by which the fall was moderated; and we are happy to say that the valved-door caught the earth, about five miles from York, and entirely unharmed. He says that as soon as the valved-door came down upon him, he knew that something had "broke loose," and just then remembering that Mr. Wise had told him to be sure when he descended to throw out his grappling-iron, he was preparing to get at it among the numerous things in his basket, "when the earth loomed up against the bottom of the car."

When first seen from York, the balloon was about three miles off, perfectly west. It appeared to be approaching directly towards our town, until the valve was pulled and it had fallen considerably. As it fell, it seemed to draw a current that bore it rapidly towards the north. The spot at which it landed is about north-west of our borough.

The escape of the gas was distinctly seen from York; and as the balloon neared the earth it had lost its rotundity, and appeared to the gazers here to come down heavily, like a wet sheet.

Hoax—"What's your brother Bill doing?"
Joak—"He's a street car conductor."
Hoax—"Posing as a moon card, eh?"
Joak—"A moon card?"
Hoax—"Yes; a Bill of fare."—*Phila. Record.*

Moocies—"Tophouse sings with a great deal of expression."
Burgins—"I should say so. I once heard him sing 'Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep,' and it positively made me sneeze."—*Phila. Record.*

The man who paddles his own canoe may some day ride in his own automobile.—*Phila. Record.*

Even the pickpocket knows what it is to be picked for money, when he is arrested.—*Phila. Record.*

An optimist is a man who can be rejected by his best girl and realize how happy he has made her.—*Phila. Record.*

Some men are ever ready to do an injury and apologize for it.

1800

DR. DADY.

A NOTORIOUS CHARACTER WHO ONCE LIVED IN ADAMS COUNTY.

This was a notorious character many years ago. The subjoined account of him and his operations is taken from Carter & Glossbrenner's "History of York County," published in 1884:

The following account of that noted impostor, Dr. Dady, is taken nearly word for word from that written by the Hon. John Joseph Henry, and sent by him to Philadelphia with the convicted impostors. Judge Henry wrote the account from notes taken at the trial. It follows, in most things, the order of the testimony as given by the witnesses.

Dr. Dady, who was a German by birth, came to this country with the Hessians during the American revolution. Possessing a fascinating eloquence in the German language, and being very fluent in the English, he was afterwards employed as a minister of the gospel by unfortunates and honest Germans.

When the sacerdotal robe could no longer be subservient to his avaricious ways, he laid it aside and assumed the character of a physician. As such he came to York county, and dwelt among the poor inhabitants of a mountainous part thereof (now within the limits of Adams county), where, in various artful ways, he preyed on the purses of the unwary.

Of all the numerous impostures with which his name is connected, and to which he has, his aid, we will mention but two. The scheme of one of them is what is now Adams county, where he dwelt; and of the other in the "barrens" of York county.

The following is an account of the Adams county imposture:

Rice Williams, or rather Rainsford Rogers, a New Englander, and John Hall, a New Yorker, (both of whom had been plundering the inhabitants of the southern states by their wives), came to the house of Clayton Chamberlain, a neighbor of Dady's, in July, 1793.

On the following morning, Dady went to Chamberlain's, and had a private conversation with Williams and Hall before breakfast. After Dady had left them, Williams asked Chamberlain whether the place was not haunted. Being answered in the negative, he said that it was haunted—that he had been born with a veil over his face—he could see spirits, and had been conducted thither, sixty miles, by a spirit. He alluded to the truth of this. In the evening of the same day, they had another interview with Dady. Williams then told Chamberlain, that if he would permit him to tarry over night, he would show him a spirit. This being agreed to, they went into a field in the evening, and Williams struck a stick on the ground, around which he directed Hall and Chamberlain to walk in silence. A terrible scream was soon heard proceeding from a black spot (!!!) in the woods, at a little distance from the parties, in a direction opposite to the place where Williams stood.

In a few minutes a white ghost appeared, which Williams addressed in a language which those who heard him could not understand—the ghost replied in the same language! After his ghostship had gone away, Williams said that the spirit knew of a treasure which it was permitted to discover to eleven men—they must be honest, religious and amiable, and neither horse-jockeys nor Irishmen.

The intercourse between Williams and Dady now assumed its apparent, but it was continued in private. Chamberlain, convinced of the existence of a ghost and a treasure, was easily induced to form a company, which was soon effected.

Each candidate was initiated by the receipt of a small sealed paper, containing a little red wax seal, which was called "the power." This "power," the candidate was to bury in the earth to the depth of one inch, for three days and three nights—performing several other absurd ceremonies, too obscene to be described here.

A circle, two feet in diameter, was formed in the field, in the centre of which there was a hole six inches wide and as many deep. A captain, a lieutenant, and three privates were chosen. Hall had the honour of the captaincy. The exercise was to pace around the circle, &c. This, it was said, propitiated and strengthened the white ghost, who was opposed by an unfriendly black ghost who resided in the appellation of Pompey. In the course of the nocturnal exercises they often saw the white ghost—they saw Mr. Pompey too, but he appeared to have "his back up," belovely loudly, and threw stones at them.

On the night of the 19th of August, 1797, Williams undertook to get instructions from the white ghost. It was done in the following manner: He took a sheet of clean white paper and folded it in the form of a letter, when each member breathed into it three times; this being repeated several times, and the paper laid over the hole in the centre of the circle, the instructions of the ghost were obtained. The following is a short extract from the epistle written by the ghost:

"Go on, and go right, and prosper, and the treasure shall be yours. I am permitted to write this in the same hand I wrote in the flesh for your direction—O—"

Take care of your powers in the term would expire.

name and fear of God our protector—let not, leave the work. There is a great treasure, 4000 pounds a piece for you. Don't trust the black one. Obedience break the stomach with an ounce of mineral durometer elixer; some German doctor has it. It is near, and dear, and scarce. Let the committee get it—but don't let the Doctor know what you are about—he is wicked."

The above is but a small part of this precious communication. In consequence of these ghostly directions, a young man named Abraham Kephart waited, by order of the committee, on Dr. Dady. The Dr. preserved his address in a bottle sealed with a large red seal, and buried in a heap of oats, and demanded fifteen dollars for an ounce of it. Young Kephart could not afford to give so much, but gave him thirty-six dollars and three barrels of oats for three ounces of it. Yea! Yea! another of these wise committee men, gave the Doctor 121 dollars for eleven ounces of the stuff.

The company was soon increased to 39 persons, many of whom were wealthy. Among those who were most miserably duped may be mentioned Clayton Chamberlain, Yeat Limer, Thomas Bigham, William Bigham, Samuel Toget, John McKinley, James Agnew the elder, James McCleary, Rob. Thompson, David Klesinger, George Sheddley, Peter Wikart, and John Phillips. All these and many other men were, in the words of the indictment, "cheated and defrauded by means of certain false tokens and pretences, to wit, by means of pretended spirits, certain circles, certain brown powder, and certain compositions called mineral elixer, and Deterick's mineral elixer."

But the wiles of these impostors were soon exerted in other parts. The following is an account of their proceedings in and about Shrewsbury township, in York county. Williams testified that he had received a call from a ghost resident in these parts, at the distance of forty miles from Dady's. Jacob Wister, one of the conspirators, was the agent of Williams on this occasion. He instituted a company of twenty-one persons, all of whom were, of course, most ignorant people. The same and even more absurd ceremonies were performed by these people, and the communications of the ghost were obtained in a still more ridiculous manner than before. The communications mentioned Dr. Dady as the person from whom they should obtain the durometer elixer, as likewise a kind of sand which the ghost called the "Asiatic sand," and which was necessary in order to give efficacy to the "powers." Ulrich Schiff, a committee man of this company, paid Dr. Dady ninety dollars for seven and a half ounces of the elixer. The elixer was put into vials, and each person was told that if he used it in his house, it would shock it as he passed round the circle; on certain occasions he annihilated his head with it, and afterwards, by order of the spirit, the vial was buried in the ground.

Each of them now set up for himself. Williams procured directions from the ghost, that each of the companies should dispatch a committee man to Lancaster to buy "Deterick's mineral elixer" of a physician in that place. In the mean time Williams and his wife went to Lancaster, where they prepared the elixer, which was nothing but a composition of copperas and cayenne pepper. Mrs. Williams, as the wife of John Huber, a German doctor, went to Dr. Ross, with a letter dated "Lancaster from New Castle, Delaware," which directed him how to sell the article, etc. The enormity of the price aroused the suspicion of Dr. Ross. In a few days the delegates from the committee arrived, and purchased elixer to the amount of \$74.25. When the lady came for the money, she was arrested, and the secret became known. Her husband Williams, escaped.

The Lancaster expedition having led to a discovery of the tricks of the impostors, a few days after the disclosures made by Mrs. Williams, an indictment was presented in the criminal court of York county, against Dr. John Dady, Rice Williams, Jesse Miller, Jacob Wister, the elder, and Jacob Wister, the younger, for a conspiracy to cheat and defraud. The trial took place in June following, and resulted in the conviction of Wister, the elder, and of Dr. Dady the former of whom was fined ten dollars and imprisoned one month in the county jail, the latter fined ninety dollars, and sentenced to two years confinement in the penitentiary at Philadelphia.

Dady had just been convicted of participating in the conspiracy in Shrewsbury, when he and Hall were found guilty of a like crime in Adams county—whereupon Hall was fined one hundred dollars and sent to the penitentiary for two years, and Dady was sentenced to undergo an additional servitude of two years in the penitentiary, to commence in June, 1800, when his first term would expire.

Tans ended the history of a man in this county, who certainly was not devoid of talent, who possessed a most winning address, and was a thorough master in quick and correct discernment of character. He relished, for a season, with undisturbed away in what was then the western part of York county. His cunning, for a long time, lulled suspicion to sleep. The history of his exorcisms should teach the credulous that the ghosts which appear now-a-days are as material as our own flesh.

AGRICULTURE.
A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON FARMING IN ADAMS COUNTY.

Farming constitutes the most important industry of the county. Every other interest, however important, is subordinate to this. Fully three-fourths of the population subsist by the cultivation of the soil. The aggregate value of the crops gathered in the county, in 1889, was very large, but in the absence of reliable statistics the amount can only be approximated. The census to be taken during the present year will undoubtedly show a surprising large total amount. The products consisting of wheat, oats, barley, buckwheat, hay, corn, clover-seed, potatoes, apples, peaches, pears, cherries, plums, apricots, grapes, peas, beans, melons and cantaloupes.

Stock-raising has become a most important business, large numbers of horses, cows, beef cattle, sheep and hogs being annually raised for market. Poultry and dairy products have also of late years added largely to the profits of farming, being encouraged and stimulated by greatly improved facilities for shipping to the great centers of population. New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. Large quantities of apples have of late years been shipped from this county to the larger cities of the West, such as Chicago and Cincinnati.

The soil is generally good and the land productive. It has been made so by careful farming, by judicious rotation of crops and by a liberal use of fertilizers. The latter consist mainly of lime, barnyard manure, and the various commercial manures in the shape of phosphates and super-phosphates.

The condition of the average Adams county farmer is truly an enviable one. Most of the land being owned by those who till it, a rent-paying farm being the exception and not the rule. The average size of farms being only about one hundred and twenty-five acres, with a fair proportion of timber, the land is for the most part cultivated without the outlay of much money. The farms being generally small and supplied with a sufficient quantity of the best and most approved labor-saving machinery, the farmer and his family rarely find much difficulty in operating the farm except at the seasons of reaping and threshing, when the help of a neighbor or two is required. This help is generally paid for in kind, and therefore costs nothing in money.

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